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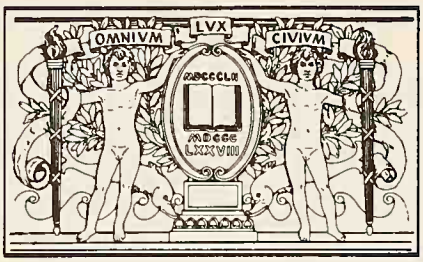

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SOME DESCENDANTS OF

JOHN KILBY

OF BOSTON: 1632-1710

NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 1984

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PREFACE

This is not intended as a genealogy of the Kilby family in America. It does trace the lineal descent from John Kilby to Harvey Morris Kilby through seven generations in Boston,New York City,New Haven,Nova Scotia, and finally upper New York State.

Emphasis is placed on the earliest data, particularly the colonial era, where the information is more difficult to assemble and is,at best, fragmentary, The years for Old Style dates have been converted to New Style. Several errors are corrected and some inconsistencies are noted.

Work on this investigation started in 1937 and was taken up again in 1968 in much greater detail. Four generations of the family of John Kilby in America were traced. The fifth generation was quite numerous and widely scattered.

The principal sources for the colonial period information have been found in the excellent collection of books and papers in the Connecticut State Library. Family papers have provided additional data.

I wish to thank Aunt Rena for her help - particularly for her notes on Nova Scotia, my mother for assembling the data, and my sister for the additional research in the Library of Congress.

Charles Christopher Kilby

244 East Robbins Avenue
Newington, Connecticut 06111

October 1984

The name Kilby has been spelled in many different ways, sometimes at the whim of a recording official. It probably originated in Lancashire, England to designate a family who lived by a kill. In Old Norse a 'kill' is an arm of the sea. The name occurs in place names in Lancashire and Leicestershire dating from about the year 1400.

Two men named Kilby emigrated from England to America in the earliest colonial times. The first was Henry Kilby, who at age 27 was a passenger London to Virginia in 1635. He had probably lived in Coventry, England. John Kilby was living in Boston before 1658. Northern Kilbys are descended from John Kilby. Southern Kilbys are descended from Henry Kilby or from William Tyler Kilby - Section 3.

1. JOHN KILBY

John Kilby was born about 1632 in Saint Albans, England. He married Elizabeth Joslin in Boston on 9 May 1662. She was the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Joslin and the widow of Edward Yeomans. The record gives the name Edward Kilby, but this is an error because John was the only Kilby in Boston at the time. John Kilby was a tailor by trade and active in church and military affairs. He died in Boston on 9 December 1710 and is buried in Old Granary Burying Ground. John and Elizabeth had four children:

1. John,jr.	1664
2. Christopher	1665
3. Sarah	1668
4. Roger	1676

All were born in Boston, but the dates are not precisely known.

Christopher is the subject of Section 2.

Roger first appears on the Tax List of 1692, when he must have been just sixteen. He is not on later lists and his death is not recorded, so he may have left Boston.

Sarah was married to Richard Draper in Boston on 22 October 1689. He had come from Banbury, England with his brother William in 1680. Richard was a joiner who lived with John Kilby. Later he was a merchant and perhaps acted as a lawyer in a case involving the estate of William Penn. He was a founder of the Brattle Street Church in Boston and became a deacon there. There is much additional information available about this family. Sarah

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and Richard Draper had eleven children:

1.	Sarah	1690
2.	Ann	1693
3.	Esther	1695
4.	Rebecca	1696
5.	Mary	1698
6.	Richard	1699
7.	Thomas	1701
8.	John	1702
9.	William	1703
10.	Edward	1705
11.	Samuel	1707

The last of their descendants died in Halifax, Nova Scotia before 1790.

John, jr. was probably born in 1664. He died on 29 May 1722 and his tombstone in Old Granary is quoted as saying 'aged 54y4m' but this could be the misreading of 57y7m. He is on the earliest extant Tax List, the incomplete list of 1687. He was a miller by trade and active in military and civic affairs. He was a founder and deacon of Brattle Street Church.

John, jr. was married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth Buckminster. They were probably married in 1684, but she died in 1691. In May 1692 he married Rebecca Simpkins. The twelve children of John, jr. were:

1.	Elizabeth	1686
2.	John	1688
3.	Thomas	1690
4.	Sarah	1693
5.	Christopher	1693
6.	Richard	1696
7.	William	1698
8.	Katherine	1700
9.	Rebecca	1702
10.	Christopher	1705
11.	Nicholas	1709
12.	Ebenezer	1711

The birth dates of all, except Thomas, are precisely known. John, the first Christopher, William, and Nicholas all died young.

Elizabeth married William Cowell in 1706.

Thomas married Mary Robinson and died in 1732. He is referred to in Section 3.

Sarah married Obadiah Gore in 1710. Her grandson Christopher Gore was a governor of Massachusetts.

Richard married Abigail Cushing in 1719 and died in 1736.

Katherine married Stephan Cushing, the brother of Abigail, in 1719 and died in 1758.

Rebecca married Jeremiah Allen in 1722.

Christopher married Sarah Clark in 1726. They had, perhaps, as many as six children. Only Sarah survived to adulthood and her granddaughter was the first wife of the seventh Duke of Argyll,but she had no children. Christopher's wife Sarah died in 1739. He became a very wealthy merchant trading in England and the West Indies and as a provisioner of the armed forces. He was briefly a legislator, then represented Massachusetts and and Boston in several capacities at the Court of Great Britain, spending much of his time in London.

Christopher thus became the Honorable Christopher Kilby. He was given a grant of Arms and a land grant of 80,000 acres in north central Vermont. For his generous contribution aiding in the reconstruction of Boston after the disastrous fire of 1760,'Mackerill'Lane was renamed Kilby Street. He died in England in 1771. His will left his daughter Sarah "one shilling, if she will come for it." (She had inherited wealth from the families of both her mother and her first husband.) The remainder of his estate was distributed to his second wife Martha, who had no children, and his seven surviving grandchildren, including one named Kilby McAdam.

Ebenezer married Bathsheba Allen, the sister of Jeremiah[?], in 1733. In 1738 he moved to Wethersfield,Connecticut. A son and a grandson,both named Christopher Kilby, served in the Continental Army.

2. CHRISTOPHER KILBY

Christopher Kilby was married on 20 March 1692 to Sarah Simpkins. Sarah was the daughter of Pilgrim Simpkins and his second wife Katherine Richardson. Born in Boston 21 September 1668,she was the younger sister of Rebecca,the wife of John,jr. The families must have been quite close with all of the children thinking of each other as siblings. There are several instances where the actual relationships have been confused.

Christopher was a baker,his brother John,jr. was a miller,and their father owned windmills. The three probably cooperated, forming a family business,at least informally. Christopher was on all the early Tax Lists from 1687 on. He was in the militia and a lifelong member of Old South Church. His name is on a pew there and he is probably buried under the meeting house.

Christopher and Sarah both died 27 July 1742. Their children were:

1.	Christopher	1692
2.	Nathaniel	1695
3.	Miriam	1696
4.	John	1699
5.	Rebecca	1701
6.	Thomas	1705
7.	Samuel	1706
8.	Sarah	1708
9.	Mary	1712

All, except Thomas, were born in Boston on recorded dates. A Hannah in the 1701 birth records seems to have been baptized Rebecca. Five of their children apparently died young: Christopher, Nathaniel, John, Samuel, and Sarah. Some of their deaths are not recorded.

Miriam was named for both her mother's half sister, who married Thomas Tyler, and this Miriam's mother, Pilgrim Simpkin's first wife. In 1724 she married Benjamin Clark, the partner and brother-in-law of the Honorable Christopher. She later married Samuel Hill.

Rebecca may have married Antipas Marshall in 1719.

Thomas is the subject of Section 3.

Mary married Henry Perkins in 1737.

3. THOMAS KILBY

Thomas Kilby was probably named for Thomas Tyler as the name Tyler appears in several generations of his descendants. There is no record of birth, but according to Old South Church records, he was baptized there on 5 May 1705. Since this was a Saturday, which was unusual, he may have been sickly and not expected to live. He has been confused with his much older cousin Thomas, the son of John, jr. and their biographical information is more difficult to separate than the vital data since it's not associated with the names of wives or parents. In 1723 he graduated from Harvard and received an A.M. degree there in 1726. Very well educated for this time, he was highly regarded as a wit and poet. As a Lieutenant in the army, he was Quartermaster at Louisburg, Cape Breton Island when he died on 11 September 1746.

Thomas Kilby married Sarah Ellis in Boston on 1 December 1726. She was the daughter of Dr. Robert Ellis and Elizabeth Pemberton born in Boston

on 15 September 1707. Their children were:

1.	Christopher	1727
2.	Sarah	1728
3.	Robert Ellis	1731
4.	William Tyler	1736

All were born in Boston on known dates.

Christopher is the subject of Section 4.

Sarah married William Clark in 1755.

Robert Ellis probably died young.

William Tyler married Jane Gridley in 1762. He served in the North Carolina Militia as a Lieutenant and died in Virginia in 1777. Found in both the North and the South, his descendants include Thomas Kilby Smith who was a Union General at Vicksburg.

4. Capt. CHRISTOPHER KILBY

Christopher Kilby was born in Boston on 16 October 1727, although a 1728 date is erroneously given. The Honorable Christopher took a 'nephew' Christopher to England and was instrumental in getting him a captaincy in in the British Army. Capt. Christopher left England and went to New York in 1752. He may have served with General Amherst. In 1765 he became the Postmaster of New Haven, Connecticut serving under Benjamin Franklin, the Postmaster General. A branch of the New Haven Post Office is named for him. He was a vestryman of Trinity Church several times. He died in New Haven on 27 February 1774. His place of burial is unknown. The probate records and an inventory of his estate are filed in the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. The estate was not sizable. It included a house and land and a long list of personal items; Total Value: 1500 pounds sterling.

Capt. Christopher Kilby returned from England with a wife Mary. Her family name is unknown. One source conjectures that it was McAdam, but the reasoning is faulty. Capt. Christopher may have known Capt. Gilbert McAdam as a son-in-law of the Honorable Christopher. Mary was born in England on 29 September 1729 according to family records. A family document of 1803 states that she died in September 1802. This date contradicts the published records giving several April 1805 dates. In particular, Trinity Church records may be in error. These records are probably the source of the information contained in the other sources.

Capt. Christopher and Mary had nine children, they were:

1.	Charles	1752
2.	John	1755
3.	Christopher	1758
4.	Sarah	1760
5.	Christopher	1762
6.	William Alling	1763
7.	Thomas Tyler	1765
8.	Elizabeth Mary	1768
9.	George Searl	1771

The first four were born in Boston or New York. About 1761 the family moved to New Haven and the remaining children were born there. Three died young: the first Christopher, Elizabeth Mary, and George Searl. There are extensive New Haven records.

Charles, also referred to as Charles Christopher, moved to England in about 1773. Some of his descendants returned to the United States.

John, after the death of his father, served as Postmaster until the end of 1774, although he was still a minor. As a Lieutenant in the Continental Army, he was captured by the British in 1777 and held in Forton Prison in England until 1779.

Sarah married Titus Butler and later Elias Shipman.

William Alling [Allen in family Bible] married Abigail Cooper.

Christopher is the subject of Section 5.

Thomas Tyler married Abigail Parmalee in 1791. They moved to Nova Scotia and had children there. He died in 1842 in Burke Hollow, Vermont.

5. CHRISTOPHER KILBY

Christopher Kilby was born in New Haven on 7 May 1762. Family papers include a birth certificate written in 1813 and several earlier references to this date. An April date is also given. Not long after his father's death in 1774, he joined the exodus of loyalist New Englanders to Nova Scotia, a diaspora that eventually included 30,000 Americans. He returned to Connecticut in 1785 to accompany one group back to Nova Scotia. His brother Thomas Tyler Kilby joined him in Nova Scotia in 1792. He was a Lieutenant in a regiment of the Royal Nova Scotia Volunteers under Sir Guy Carleton (who later became Lord Dorchester) as Commander in Chief. He was under Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Hierlihy. He was awarded 650 acres of

land near Dorchester (now Antigonish). The land was not suitable to use for farming because of chalk underneath. In 1801 he petitioned, without success,on behalf of his wife and eight children for better land. He sold the farm in 1805 and moved away. Family records include an account book for a farm on Van Schaick Island in the Hudson River and letters from him from Waterford,New York dating from 1818 on. A letter of 1819 giving an account of the formation of the Emma Willard School has been sent to the school for their archives. About this time Christopher Kilby was awarded a half pension from the British Army and was recognized as a citizen of the United States. He later is believed to have lived in Stillwater,New York - the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Saratoga.

Christopher Kilby married Elizabeth Hierlihy in Dorchester,Nova Scotia on 24 November 1785. She was born on 20 October 1762, presumably on the farm in Middlefield, Connecticut, where her parents Timothy Hierlihy and Elizabeth Wetmore settled after their marriage in 1755. Elizabeth died on 16 June 1836 and Christopher is believed to have died on the same day,but the family record is not completely clear. Their children were:

1.	Elizabeth	1787
2.	Mary	1789
3.	James Curgenven	1791
4.	Louisa Cornelia	1792
5.	Charles Christopher	1794
6.	John George	1796
7.	Henry William	1798
8.	Harriet Maria	1800
9.	Cornelia Hierlihy	1802
10.	Horatio Nelson	1804

All of the children were born in Nova Scotia. The first eight were all living when Christopher Kilby petitioned for better land in 1801,the youngest just seventeen months old. Family documents give the birth dates for all and even the hour of birth for some. Additional information for most should be readily available.

Elizabeth was eighteen when the farm in Nova Scotia was sold. She may have married and remained in the area of Dorchester.

Mary married Samuel Comstock and died in 1836.

James Curgenven - the spelling is uncertain and name origin unknown.

Louisa Cornelia married Vischer Knickerbocker and died in 1866.

Charles Christopher is the subject of Section 6.

John George had a business in Waterford. An advertising poster has been displayed in the General Store at Old Sturbridge Village.

Henry William may have died at an early age.

Harriet Maria may have died in 1852.

Cornelia Hierlihy died in 1866.

Horatio Nelson died young.

6. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER KILBY

Charles Christopher Kilby was born 28 October 1794 on the farm near Dorchester (Antigonish) in Nova Scotia. While he was in New York City in 1819 his father sent him several letters by packet boat. They were kept in a mahogany chest with important papers and a few mementos. He became a citizen of the United States when his father was recognized as one.

Charles Christopher Kilby married Prudence Morris in Milton, New York 30 September 1840. She was born 7 September 1809 in Pittstown, New York the daughter of Harvey Morris and Elizabeth Ray. A family Bible seems to have been prepared as a wedding present. It gives the vital data that is available in the other records and was subsequently updated. He died in Stillwater on 7 May 1863. His wife died 9 August 1889. Their children, all probably born in Stillwater, were:

1. Elizabeth Morris 1841
2. Hannah Mary 1843
3. Harvey Morris 1847

Elizabeth Morris never married and died in 1911.

Hannah Mary never married and died in 1892.

Harvey Morris is the subject of Section 7.

7. HARVEY MORRIS KILBY

Harvey Morris Kilby was born 9 February 1847 on the farm in Stillwater, New York, where he lived most of his life. On 23 December 1884 he married Carrie Belle Humphrey. She was born on 4 September 1858, the daughter of James Humphrey and Mary Ann Baker.

The original farmhouse was taken down in 1906 when the present house was built. Carrie Belle Humphrey died on 5 February 1912. Harvey Morris Kilby died 14 September 1924. They had five children:

1. Charles Christopher 1887
2. Lorena Mary 1889
3. Libbie Louisa 1890
4. James Humphrey 1893
5. Norman Morris 1895

Other descendants include 8 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

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Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler_____

Address_____

City, State_____

Date_____

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No.____ on chart No.____.

Chart No.____

b. Date of Birth
p.b. Place of Birth
m. Date of Marriage
d. Date of Death
p.d. Place of Death

1 **Capt. Christopher** (Section 4)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

2 **Thomas** (Section 3) (Father of No. 1)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

3 **Sarah Ellis** (Mother of No. 1)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

4 **Christopher** (Section 2) (Father of No. 2)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

5 **Sarah Simpkins** (Mother of No. 2)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

6 **Dr. Robert Ellis** (Father of No. 3)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

7 **Elizabeth Pemberton** (Mother of No. 3)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

8 **John** (Section 1) (Father of No. 4)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

9 **Elizabeth Joslin** (Mother of No. 4)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d

10 **Pilgrim Simpkins** (Father of No. 5)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

11 **Katherine Richardson** (Mother of No. 5)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

12 **Dr. Edward Ellis** (Father of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

13 **Sarah Blott** (Mother of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

14 **James Pemberton** (Father of No. 7)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

15 **Sarah** (Mother of No. 7)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

Mary
(Spouse of No. 1)
b. d.
p.b. p.d.

16 b. m. d. (Father of No. 8, Cont. on chart No.____)

17 b. d. (Mother of No. 8, Cont. on chart No.____)

Thomas Joslin

18 b. m. d. (Father of No. 9, Cont. on chart No.____)

19 Rebecca
b. d. (Mother of No. 9, Cont. on chart No.____)

Capt. Nicolas Simpkins

20 b. m. d. (Father of No. 10, Cont. on chart No.____)

21 Isabel [?]
b. d. (Mother of No. 10, Cont. on chart No.____)

22 b. m. d. (Father of No. 11, Cont. on chart No.____)

23 b. d. (Mother of No. 11, Cont. on chart No.____)

24 b. m. d. (Father of No. 12, Cont. on chart No.____)

25 b. d. (Mother of No. 12, Cont. on chart No.____)

Robert Blott

26 b. m. d. (Father of No. 13, Cont. on chart No.____)

27 Sarah
b. d. (Mother of No. 13, Cont. on chart No.____)

28 b. m. d. (Father of No. 14, Cont. on chart No.____)

29 b. d. (Mother of No. 14, Cont. on chart No.____)

30 b. m. d. (Father of No. 15, Cont. on chart No.____)

31 b. d. (Mother of No. 15, Cont. on chart No.____)

Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler_____

Address_____

City, State_____

Date_____

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No.____ on chart No.____.

Chart No.____

b. Date of Birth
p.b. Place of Birth
m. Date of Marriage
d. Date of Death
p.d. Place of Death

1 _____
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.

2 Harvey Morris (Section 7) (Father of No. 1)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

3 Carrie Belle Humphrey (Mother of No. 1)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

(Spouse of No. 1)
b. d.
p.b. p.d.

4 Charles Christopher (Section 6) (Father of No. 2)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

5 Prudence Morris (Mother of No. 2)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

6 James Humphrey (Father of No. 3)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

7 Mary Ann Baker (Mother of No. 3)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

8 Christopher (Section 5) (Father of No. 4)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

9 Elizabeth Hierlihy (Mother of No. 4)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d

10 Harvey Morris (Father of No. 5)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

11 Elizabeth Ray (Mother of No. 5)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

12 Josiah Humphrey (Father of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

13 Olive Wilber (Mother of No. 6)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

14 William Baker (Father of No. 7)
b.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d

15 _____ (Mother of No. 7)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.

16 Capt. Christopher (Section 4) (Father of No. 8, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

17 Mary (Mother of No. 8, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

18 Timothy Hierlihy (Father of No. 9, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

19 Elizabeth Wetmore (Mother of No. 9, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

20 (Father of No. 10, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

21 (Mother of No. 10, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

22 (Father of No. 11, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

23 (Mother of No. 11, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

24 (Father of No. 12, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

25 (Mother of No. 12, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

26 (Father of No. 13, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

27 (Mother of No. 13, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

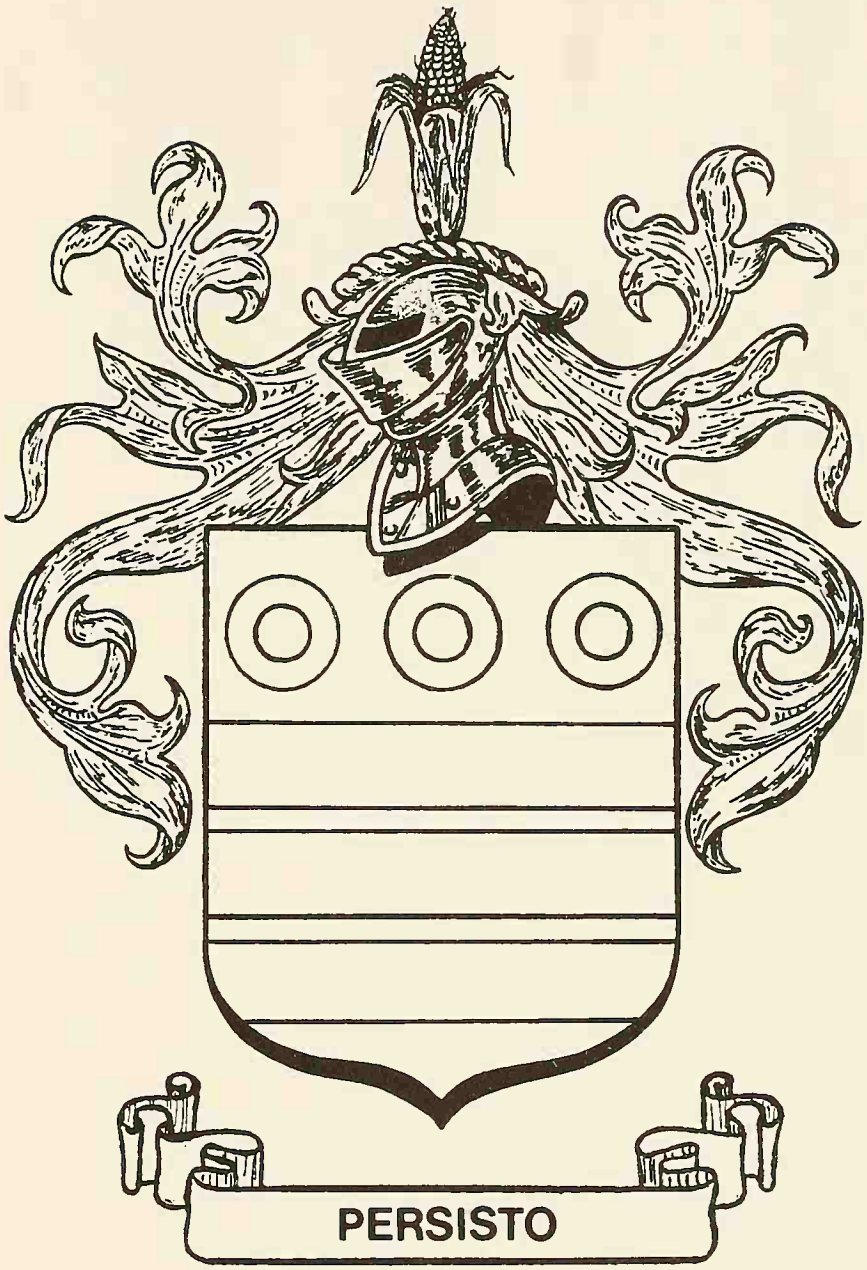
28 James Baker (Father of No. 14, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

29 Ruth Post [?] (Mother of No. 14, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

30 (Father of No. 15, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
m.
d.

31 (Mother of No. 15, Cont. on chart No.____)
b.
d.

COAT OF ARMS
OF THE
HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER KILBY



Kilby

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